(b) About 50,000 tonnes of chilly was exported yearly on an average basis in last 2 years. However, a quantity of 11,200 tonnes was exported during April to June, 1997.

(c) to (e) The price of chillies was considerably low in the market during this season from April, 1997, therefore, Government of India considered the proposal of the State Government and implemented Market Intervention scheme for red chillies at an intervention price of Rs. 2250 per quintal under which procurement was made for a quantity of 17500 MTs till 10th June, 1997. The Spices Board is taking various steps to improve export of chillies from the country such as distribution of polythene sheets for drying yards, training for quality improvement and construction of warehouses by farmers associations, societies, state federation and marketing boards.

[Translation]

Fake Visas

2007. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some person iravelling to Tehran on fake visas were apprehended in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number thereof ;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government so far in this regard ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) According to Delhi Police, no such case was reported during the last six months.

[English]

Sunderbans

2008. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any measures have been taken to check that slush does not spoil the charm of sunderbans area in the West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Iron Ore Mines

2009. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kalta Iron Ore Mines have been close down following the interim judgement of the Supreme Court, rendering 3000 workers jobless ;

(b) whether the proposal for forest clearance for Kalta Mines had been cleared by the Advisory Committee and pending before the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in granting approval for the forest clearance which was cleared by the Advisory Committee; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The proposal of the State Government of Orissa for renewal of mining lease of M/s SAIL, Rourkela for Iron Ore in Barsuan, Kalta region in Bonai sub-division of Sundergarh district has already been approved in principle under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 20.2.1997 for 395.639 ha. of forest land, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The Ministry has also accorded a temporary working permission for nine months over already broken up forest area on 20.2.1997 in respect of the above proposal.

(c) and (d) Since the State Government of Orissa has not furnished the compliance report in respect. of the stipulated conditions, the question of according formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the proposal at this stage does not a rise.

Bhopal Gas Victims

2010. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided adequate financial assistance to rehabilitate the Bhopal Gas victims; and

(b) the quantum of asistance given and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the financial assistance provided by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for relief and rehabilitation of the Bhopal gas victims, the Government of India has also provided Rs. 243 crores to the State Government for the purpose.